

CONGO

Trial of Alleged Assassins To Open 3 January
Yhombi-Opango Promoted to Brigadier General

C 11/A14
C 11/A14

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Luanda Radio Reports Neto's New Year's Message
Neto Sends Castro Greetings on National Day

E 11/B1
E 11/B1

MOZAMBIQUE

President Machel Broadcasts New Year's Message
Machel Sends Message to Castro on National Day
Maputo: Guerrillas Destroy Concentration Camp
Further Report

E 11/B1
E 21/B2
E 31/B3
E 31/B3

RHODESIA

Smith Reports 'Significant Progress' in Talks
Communique Reports Latest Deaths in Fighting
AFP: Guerrillas Attack Rhodesian Tourist Resort
Further Details on Attack

E 31/B3
E 61/B6
E 61/B6
E 71/B7

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg Comments on Forthcoming Namibia Talks

E 71/B7

ZAMBIA

Kaunda Stresses Importance of Armed Struggle

E 81/B8

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CONTIN

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DJIBOUTI

MOGADISCIO: GOULED REPORTS PLOT FOILED BY ARMY

LNO21532Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Mogadiscio--The president of the Republic of Djibouti, Mr Hassan Gouled Aptidon, Saturday declared that his country's army has foiled an attack aimed at splitting the republic into two. The Republic of Djibouti gained its independence in June last year.

Radio Oman [as heard], monitored here yesterday, said that the plot was organized by foreign countries who are aiming to start tribal strife in the republic.

The foreign countries involved in the abortive plot include the Addis Ababa regime, with Russia and Cuba working behind the scenes to encourage to disrupt the Republic of Djibouti.

ETHIOPIA

ELEVEN SOMALI SOLDIERS REPORTED KILLED IN SIDAMO

LD311838Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Text] According to a statement issued today by the administrative office of the Sidamo administrative region, 11 soldiers of the Mogadiscio government have been crushed and a (Dimotfor) rifle, a grenade and two Colt pistols were seized there.

The soldiers of the Mogadiscio government were killed when they tried to invade the town of Harakelo and the Bekasa Tekla locality in the Borena and Arero districts of the Sidamo administrative region.

The siege of Harakelo and the Bekasa Tekla locality by Somali soldiers was broken by the members of the regular and militia forces and by members of defense squads of farmers associations from the surrounding areas.

In the exchange of fire with the Somali soldiers, there were no casualties on the Ethiopian side.

ADDIS ABABA CLAIMS SUCCESSES IN HARARGE REGION

LDO21200Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] In a mopping-up operation conducted in the Dawe and Geliba localities during the week, members of the farmers associations, militia and regular forces of the Kofachele subdistrict of the Garamulata district, in the Hararge administrative region, six heavily fortified enemy hideouts were destroyed. According to a spokesman for the region's administrative office, several Somali soldiers were killed and wounded in the 2-day operation.

In another development, members of the defense squads drawn from farmers associations of the Worke locality, in the Girawa subdistrict of the Garamulata district, have killed several Somali soldiers, wounded another three and seized several weapons and handgrenades. The Somali soldiers had come to Worke locality to steal sorghum.

The Hararge administrative office spokesman said that there were no casualties on the Ethiopian side during the mopping-up operation.

ADDIS ABABA URGES SOMALIS TO REBEL AGAINST SIAD

LD022048 [Editorial Report LD/EA] Addis Ababa in Somali to neighboring countries at 1800 GMT on 2 January, in a commentary, says that the Siad regime is the cause of the Somali people's predicament. Ethiopia has in the past allowed Somali herdsmen to graze livestock across the border and has given them unhampered access to water. As a result of the current war of aggression by the Siad regime, large numbers of the Somali Army have been wiped out by the gallant Ethiopian forces. The dead among the Siad army lie in the bush unburied and the wounded remain unattended.

Finally, the radio appeals to the Somali masses to rise against the ruling junta in Mogadiscio and pledges them Ethiopian support.

EIGHT EPRP MEN REPORTED KILLED IN ADDIS ABABA

LD311844Y Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1730 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Text] Eight paid assassins of the so-called EPRP [Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Party] were today killed by security forces in higher five urban dwellers' association in Addis Ababa when they refused to surrender and opened fire on police.

According to a spokesman for the criminal investigation department of the police force, many other agents of the counterrevolutionary group were also detained pending further investigations.

They were caught along with quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives in the same locality, known as Adere Tera.

The spokesman said the counterrevolutionary group had been commandeering private cars to perpetrate their illegal activities. He said that when members of the group were asked to give themselves up, they opened fire on security forces. In the ensuing exchange of fire, eight members of the group were killed and many others detained.

ADDIS ABABA SAYS SOMALIS MAY HAVE BOMBED OWN CITIES

LD312025 [Editorial Report LD/EA] On 31 December, Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic at 1700 GMT carries what appears to be a 9-minute commentary on the recent Somali allegation that Ethiopian war planes carried out raids on Hargeisa and Berbera. The radio says that the raids may have been carried out by mistake by Somali war planes.

After quoting Mogadiscio Radio's factual reports on the raids, the radio says: "If the killing of children and old people really did happen during air raids as alleged, then our hearts bleed for the relatives of the dead children and injured old people."

The radio goes on to say: "The destruction and killing was carried out by the inexperienced Somali Air Force, which cannot identify its own air space. We fear that this kind of grave error will continue to be committed."

The radio adds: "If Somalia's war planes bomb their own towns, mistaking Hargeisa and Berbera for Harar and Direedawa, then it is no new thing. Somali war planes have made similar mistakes in the past."

The radio points out that many Somali war planes have collided in mid-air while on bombing runs within Ethiopia and that Ethiopia cannot be held responsible for mistakes made by Somalia's own pilots.

MENGISTU GREETES CASTRO ON CUBAN ANNIVERSARY

LD311525Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Text] The Cuban revolution has indeed become an exemplary thought of inspiration to all the oppressed masses of the Third World who are struggling to build socialism in their respective countries.

This was declared here today by Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, in a congratulatory message to Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the State Council of Cuba, on the occasion of the celebration of the 19th anniversary of the victory of the Cuban revolution.

Comrade Colonel Mengistu expressed appreciation that in Ethiopia's bitter struggle against imperialism, feudalism and bureaucratic capitalism, the brotherly people and government of the Republic of Cuba have firmly stood in solidarity with the oppressed masses of Ethiopia.

ERITREAN OFFICIAL SABI CALLS FOR ARAB SUPPORT

JN011222Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 1 Jan 78 JN

[Text] Doha, 1 January--'Uthman Salih Sabi, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Popular Liberation Forces, has asserted that more than one town will be liberated within the next few days. This means that the battle for Asmara, which is besieged by the revolutionaries, will become the decisive battle.

In this regard, he stressed the need for unifying the Eritrean revolution fronts militarily, politically and in the information field.

In an interview with the Qatari monthly magazine AL-KHALIJ AL-JADID, 'Uthman Sabi urged the Arab countries to help the Eritrean revolution achieve its unity through various means of pressure, including withholding support from any front which rejects unity until it comes to its senses.

He pointed out that had the Eritrean fronts been unified, they would have dealt a crucial blow to Ethiopia and would have immediately declared the formation of an Eritrean government and a democratic party within a general national congress.

Sabi called on the Arab states to pay special attention to the problems in the Horn of Africa, where the Arabs have interests, primarily protection of the Red Sea from the dangers of outside interference. He pointed out that Israeli intervention against the Eritrean revolution is designed to prevent Eritrea's independence, which, to Israel, means depriving it of the use of the Red Sea.

Sabi said that there are 182 military experts in Ethiopia training the Ethiopian Army. NEWSWEEK has also reported that Israeli experts are maintaining the F-5 aircraft used by Ethiopians. Arms for the Ethiopian militia come from Israel, Sabi added.

Concluding his statement, Sabi said there is not a single Ethiopian soldier in the western region, which constitutes two thirds of Eritrean territory.

The only exception, he said, is the town of Barentu now under siege by the forces of the liberation front and the military council and which has now virtually fallen.

FARMERS IN BATTLE AREAS RECEIVE ARMS FOR DEFENSE

LD011538Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Summary] Farmers of the Messela and Deder subdistricts, in the Chercher Adal Garaguracha and Wobera districts of the Hararge administrative region, were armed during the week. The arms were handed over to the farmers on 30 and 31 December in the towns of Messela and Haracha by a Provisional Military Administrative Council member to the Hararge administrative region.

SPECIAL YAR ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR MENGISTU

LD301522Y Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1030 GMT 30 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Excerpt] 'Abdullah Humran, special envoy of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] Command Council, arrived in Addis Ababa today on a working tour of Ethiopia.

'Abdullah Humran said that while in Ethiopia he will deliver a special message from Lt Col Ahmad al-Ghashmi to Comrade Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam. On his arrival at Bole International Airport, 'Abdullah also said that relations between the YAR and Ethiopia will be further strengthened in the future.

Special Envoy Leaves

LD022122Y Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1700 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] The YAR special envoy, 'Abdullah Humran, said that his meetings with Colonel Mengistu have encouraged him to work harder to strengthen the longstanding friendly ties between Ethiopia and his country.

Speaking after a 3-day visit to Ethiopia, he said he was greatly impressed by the courageous Ethiopian people who are working hard to advance their country.

KENYA

MP DENIES SOMALIA'S ALLEGED BID FOR PEACE

LD311530Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Text] An assistant minister for information and broadcasting, Mr Elisha Godana, has denied reports appearing in the local press that Somalia has no territorial claims on Kenya or Ethiopia.

Speaking in Isiolo today, Mr Godana, who is also the MP for Marsabit North, said that incidents which have been taking place in Moyale indicate that Somalia is prepared to fight Kenya at any time.

Mr Godana branded as total lies the statement by Somali leader in Teheran this week that Somalia has made several fruitless attempts to end any ill feelings against her and Kenya, and that Somalia was still ready to achieve peace. He said that the WSLF [Western Somali Liberation Front] was supported by Somalia, and that was why President Barre is seeking support of arms from other countries.

NAIROBI REPORTS MEETING WITH TANZANIA IN TARIME

LD311520Y Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Text] A good neighborliness meeting between Kenyan and Tanzanian officials has reaffirmed that all properties which were held by both governments should be returned to their respective countries.

The meeting, held at Tarime in Tanzania yesterday, resolved that both sides should be committed to supporting the agreement signed by the two countries concerning territorial integrity.

The meeting, which was held under the chairmanship of the area commissioner, Mr Malik, was attended by the South Nyanza [Kenya] district commissioner, Mr Misiko.

Mr Misiko received a Ministry of Works landrover which was confiscated by Tanzania at the closure of the border.

The meeting also suggested that there should be regular meetings between officials in the two neighboring districts to improve the existing good relations. All wanachi [citizens] living along the border were asked to cooperate with the authorities to minimize cattle rustling and stamp out heoliganism.

The two district commissioners agreed to hold another meeting at Migori on 27 January next year.

SOMALIA

ETHIOPIAN AIR RAID REPORTEDLY KILLS 13, WOUNDS 35

LD021836Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] Two Abyssinian war planes attacked the town of Tug Wajaaleh on 30 December killing 13 people and wounding 35 more. The war planes which launched the aggressive attack on the territory of the Somali Democratic Republic were F-5 fighters.

Talking to the SONNA correspondent in the northwest region, Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party Regional Secretary Challe Brig Gen Billeh Rafleh Guled, said the naked attack by Abyssinian war planes on civilian targets was aimed at disrupting the united purpose of the Somali nation, after the Abyssinian regime failed to counter the firepower of the Somali liberation fronts on the battlefield.

SOMALI FRONT PAPER REPORTS NEW BATTLE VICTORIES

LD021150Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] DANAB: In a fierce battle at Oboso, Sidamo, units of our Somali-Abo Liberation Army have killed 90 soldiers, wounded 70 others and took 15 others as captives from the Abyssinian colonialist troops on 29 December.

In the same battle, our gallant freedom fighters inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, says DANAB, the bulletin of the Somali liberation fronts. They set on fire an ammunition dump, the ration store, the medical store and stole several military trucks.

MOGADISCIO: MASSAWA TO FALL TO ERITREANS SOON

LD301830Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 30 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Text] The Eritrean freedom fighters are intensifying their offensive against the Abyssinian forces in the strategic town of Massawa, which has been besieged by the Eritrean forces for several weeks now. The freedom fighters have deployed themselves with their weapons in the hills (?around the) town, and to the north, south and west, in a bid to capture the port town.

A spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front says that it will only be a short time before Massawa falls. The town is the center where the Mengistu troops receive food and weapons, and the spokesman says that the battle for Massawa is vital for the Eritrean liberation war [words indistinct].

Reports from Addis Ababa say nothing can be airlifted or taken by land to Massawa because of the Eritreans intensive fire against the Abyssinian troops in the town.

The report adds that the oil reserves of the Addis Ababa forces [words indistinct] in Massawa have been blown up. Diplomatic sources in Addis Ababa add that Addis Ababa airport has been closed to traffic because of the massive airlift of Soviet arms.

SUNA ACCUSES ETHIOPIA OF USING NAPALM AGAINST EPLF

LD031234Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 3 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Abyssinian air force has attacked the Eritrean town of Keren and several surrounding villages controlled by the Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] and strafed them with napalm, the SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY, SUNA, reported today.

In a dispatch from Keren, which has a population of 40,000, the agency said that two Ethiopian F-5 planes raided (?the town) on Sunday (?evening) and a number of people were (?injured), eight of them seriously. Liberation forces are setting up positions and a state of [word indistinct] has been declared in the town. [passage indistinct]

MOGADISCIO CLAIMS MENGISTU VISITED CUBA, USSR

LD311510Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Excerpts] It has been confirmed that the Abyssinian defense minister has attended a meeting of the Warsaw Pact nations. It is further reported that it was there agreed to assist Abyssinnia in compliance with a Soviet request.

According to very reliable sources, Mengistu himself has secretly visited Cuba in a bid to secure new arms for his troops. It is also reported that he subsequently stopped over in the GDR, South Yemen and the USSR.

Reliable sources have also confirmed that there are many East German troops in Ethiopia at present and that they are to take part in a planned attack. Other soldiers from the GDR are due to arrive soon.

The Somali people are prepared, as they have always been, to defend against and ward off any attacks mounted by the Russians and their running dogs. Long live Somalia!

TRADE UNIONS CONDEMN RUSSIAN, CUBAN 'INTERFERENCE'

LD021534Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] A joint communique issued by the general federation of the Somali trade unions and the Eritrean trade unions jointly condemned Russian and Cuban interference in the affairs of the Horn of Africa. The two sides equated the objective of these countries' interference with the liberation war in which the Somali and Eritrean liberation fronts are engaged against colonialism is to (?avert) the struggle of the two peoples who for so long have been under Abyssinian colonialism. [as heard]

The joint communique called upon Russia and Cuba to reconsider their full support to the Abyssinian colonialism and to keep their hands off the affairs of the Horn.

The two sides declared their moral and material support to the liberation movements of Palestine, Zimbabwe and SWAPO.

MOGADISCIO: WAR WILL CONTINUE UNTIL VICTORY

LD022120 [Editorial Report LD/EA] Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali at 1700 GMT on 2 January carries an unattributed commentary which hails the year 1978 as the year of final victory for the Western Somali, Somali-Abo and Eritrean liberation fronts, and says that 90 percent of the Ethiopian regular forces and 30,000 militiamen have been wiped out since the start of the liberation war.

"If the colonialists have been accustomed to living in peace in the western Somali, Somali-Abo and Eritrean territories, imposing gibir [a feudal form of taxation] as they wished, an irreconcilable war of liberation rages today in the Abyssinian empire, and even whatever small portion of territory still remains in the hands of the Abyssinian colonialists is in dispute today."

It concludes: "The war will continue as long as the colonialists continue to occupy an inch of the western Somali, Somali-Abo and Eritrean territories."

MINISTER MEETS WITH YAR PRESIDENT AL-GHASHMI

LD011504Y Mogadiscio Domestic Service in Somali 0330 GMT 1 Jan. 78 LD/EA

[Text] Challe Abdullahi Ossoble Siyad, Somali Democratic Republic [SDR] minister of posts and telecommunications, had a meeting in Sana yesterday with Ahmad al-Ghashmi, president of the Yemen Arab Republic, to whom he delivered a message from SDR President Challe Mohamed Siad Barre. The message concerned bilateral relations, the Middle East problem and the danger posed by Russian interference in the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea area and the Indian Ocean.

Challe Ossoble, who arrived there yesterday, is expected to leave for Saudi Arabia today.

PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE VISITS IRAN, IRAQ

For Teheran Domestic Service reportage on President Mohamed Siad Barre's 27-29 December visit to Iran, see the Iran section of the 28 and 30 December issues of the Middle East, & North Africa DAILY REPORT.

For Baghdad INA reportage on the president's 29-30 December visit to Iraq, see the Iraq section of the 30 December Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT.

PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE PAYS BRIEF VISIT TO SYRIA

For Damascus reportage on President Siad Barre's 31 December-1 January visit to Syria, see the Syria section of the 3 January Middle East & North Africa DAILY REPORT.

UGANDA

AMIN REPORTS PROGRESS, POLICY IN NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

LD021546Y Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 1 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Excerpts] New Years Day 1978, which also marked the 50th birthday of Life President Amin, was celebrated at Nile Mansion Gardens with much pomp and jubilation by a cross section of Ugandans from all parts of the country.

In his New Year's message to all Ugandans and the international community, Field Marshal Amin called on all Ugandans to pool their resources of time, money and effort to bring greater prosperity to our beloved country and work harder as a fully united people.

He declared that he is not going to allow the minister of finance to release any money for the importation of luxurious things. He said the money should be released for buying items which can serve the public in general, such as buses for public transport.

Uganda, he said, has fulfilled all her international obligations by clearing all her debts which were outstanding and left uncleared by the former regime in thousands and millions of dollars. These debts, he added, could not have been cleared if the government had not tightened its economic position after the declaration of the economic war in 1972. Uganda's international image in the fulfillment of her international obligations is well known throughout the world.

He said that our economic position is now very firm and we are no longer like other countries which are still suffering from economic cancer. What we need now, he said, is to tighten our belts and work harder in order to make more money for all the essential services throughout the country and produce more food for our local consumption as well as for export. In order to earn foreign exchange we should concentrate on doubling production of our main cash crops, such as coffee, cotton and tea.

The constitutional provision of freedom of conscience will be strictly enforced and all recognized religions will have complete freedom of worship and propagation so long as they remain within the bounds of the law of the land.

More consumer goods will be made available and the paper [as heard] and prices will be reduced to bring them within the reach of the common man.

On the international scene, the life president said that Uganda will continue its present policy of nonalignment and will also try to play an active role in promoting the cause of international peace.

Let us practice what we preach and let some of us step forward to give the lead. I, for my part, he said, am prepared to extend my hand of friendship to anyone who is prepared to clasp it in a spirit of genuine reconciliation.

He added: Although I have reasons to be aggrieved by the unfriendly attitude of some of the countries, I am prepared to forget the past and open a new chapter of friendly relations. Let us lessen the tension between us by discussing peacefully at the table any complaints that we have against each other. Better to meet bilaterally to understand each other's point of view, and in the meantime let us improve the atmosphere by stopping propaganda against each other.

He thanked the friendly countries, especially those represented in Uganda, which have given us various types of assistance. He said that Uganda's relations with these countries will be strengthened even further.

He appealed to the communist and socialist countries to continue supporting and giving assistance to the Palestinians in the Middle East and African countries which are being oppressed by white minority regimes in southern Africa. He said that Western countries who are mainly the cause of oppression in these territories cannot give assistance. President Amin noted that Western countries, instead of appreciating the assistance which countries like the Soviet Union, China and Cuba are giving to unliberated territories, they accuse them of interfering into their internal affairs. He pointed out that if Cuba is a member of the Third World, it is quite in order for it to give assistance to any country which asks for it. He said the majority of countries in the Third World do not manufacture weapons and such they are free to ask for assistance from anywhere. It is for this reason that friendly countries are signing defence pacts in order to assist one another militarily.

He said that here in Uganda we are training freedom fighters from unliberated areas in southern Africa. He said we have many highly qualified military officers who can give the best training.

NATIONAL FORUM SESSION TO MEET 15-20 JANUARY

LD021614Y Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Summary] "The details of the 1978 session of the Uganda National Forum have now been finalized. The forum will take place from 15 to 20 January 1978."

The forum will comprise country elders; delegates from the business world; mayors and town clerks; country chiefs; governors; district commissioners and their assistants; ambassadors and high commissioners in Uganda's embassies abroad; heads of parastatal bodies and government companies; delegates from Makerere University, including one student; the four religious leaders with the exception of the bishops and district kadhis; heads of government departments; and permanent secretaries and ministers.

President Amin will chair the forum.

CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE

ZAIRE'S PRESIDENT MOBUTU VISITS EMPEROR BOKASSA

PA010225Y Paris AFP in English 0210 GMT 1 Jan 78 PA

[Text] Djamena, Chad, Jan 1 (AFP)--President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire was in the Central African Empire today on a visit of friendship and brotherhood, the [word indistinct] radio reported.

Bokassa I, who crowned himself emperor last December 4, met General Mobutu at Bangui Airport yesterday. The Zairese leader had already visited the new emperor on December 8 and 9.

CONGO

TRIAL OF ALLEGED ASSASSINS TO OPEN 3 JANUARY

LD021610 [Editorial Report LD/EA] Brazzaville Domestic Service in French at 1215 GMT on 2 January 1978 reports that Congo President Yhombi-Opango today issued one order and two decrees making special arrangements for the trial of those alleged to be implicated in the assassination of former President Marien Ngouabi last March. The trial is to open in Brazzaville tomorrow.

The order sets up a special revolutionary tribunal. "The special revolutionary tribunal is competent to try the authors and coauthors of attempts against the internal and external security of the state and any others involved in such attempts. It is also competent to try persons who plotted, aided and abetted the preparation and carrying out of the assassination of Comrade Marien Ngouabi, president of the Congolese Workers Party [PCT] Central Committee, president of the republic and head of state."

The order states that there will be no right of appeal against sentences handed down by the tribunal.

The first decree lists the members of the tribunal as the president of the Supreme Court, a member of the PCT Central Committee, the president of the Pointe Noire Country Court and the presidents of the party committees of Brazzaville's six districts.

The first president of the appeal court will assume the role of a government commissioner acting as public prosecutor. He will be assisted by the president of the Brazzaville Country Court.

The second decree states that as of tomorrow and until further notice, the Congolese people will work from 0620 until 1300 with no break, so as to allow them to follow the proceedings of the tribunal which will be broadcast live on radio and television.

YHOMBI-OPANGO PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER GENERAL

LD301518Y Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1215 GMT 30 Dec 77 LD/EA

[Summary] The Council of Ministers today decreed that the following army promotions will be promulgated on 1 January 1978: Col Joachim Yhombi-Opango to brigadier general; Commander Raymond Ngollo to lieutenant colonel; Capt (Antoine Mabwaki) to commander.

ANGOLA

LUANDA RADIO REPORTS NETO'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

LD021600Y Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] We are beginning 1978 with a new weapon--the Labor Party--which will put the Angolan proletariat in the vanguard of our people.

This was said by the president of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the People's Republic of Angola in his new year's message.

In his message, broadcast by Radio Nacional over its general network, Comrade President Dr Agostinho Neto stressed that 1978 will be the year of agriculture which will enjoy maximum support from the party and government. We must increase crop and livestock production, since we should not allow Angola to import food products such as potatoes, maize, manioc flour and others which we can produce in sufficient quantity for our demands, the president said.

In another part of his important speech, the president of the party and republic said: The inevitable class confrontation is an element to be considered, but [words indistinct] of ideas and of discussion. He went on to say that in Angola the petite bourgeoisie must comprehend the interests of the working class, which are their own interests and those of all Angolians.

In his message, Comrade President Dr Agostinho Neto also spoke of the need to step up production, consolidate national unity and the discipline of party militants, and to improve and revise the structure of government.

NETO SENDS CASTRO GREETINGS ON NATIONAL DAY

LD021120Y Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0900 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] Comrade Agostinho Neto, president of the republic, has sent Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party, a message of congratulations on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the triumph of the Cuban revolution. In his message the Angolan head of state recalls the ties of friendship between the Cuban and Angolan peoples and expresses the sincere wish that they will be further strengthened through closer cooperation.

MOZAMBIQUE

PRESIDENT MACHEL BROADCASTS NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

LD011524Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1100 GMT 1 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Mozambique President Samora Machel's new year's message to the nation--recorded; originally broadcast at 1800 GMT on 31 December]

[Excerpts] Mozambicans: We wish all citizens, all foreign friends who work and live with us, and all families a happy 1978--a new year which should bring happiness to all, good health and prosperity. The new year should enable each one of us and our entire society fully to carry out the many tasks facing us all in the construction of our country and in the consolidation of the revolution.

The year 1977, which comes to a close in a few hours, was an important and decisive year in the history of the reconstruction of the Mozambican nation. The year 1977 is the year of the consolidation of our independence, the year during which the process of establishing the democratic people's power has become irreversible.

It was a year of great undertakings in all fields, despite the natural calamities which hit us, and despite the continuous attacks of which we have been a target. This enthusiasm, this resolve led to the consolidation of the mass democratic organizations. It enabled us to face victoriously the natural calamities which once again hit our country.

As far as the natural calamities are concerned, we stress the Cabo Delgado drought, the Pungue and Limpopo Valley floods and the hailstorm which hit the capital. It was the same enthusiasm and the same resolve which enabled us rapidly to overcome the social and economic setbacks caused by the Moatize mines accident, by the accident at the Maputo mining [word indistinct] by the grave derailments which occurred on several railway tracks in Maputo and Nampula provinces.

The bloody attacks and maneuvers by the external and internal enemy could not break this determination. This year we experienced the most grave crises in supplies, the most insidious campaigns of slander and rumormongering. We feel in our flesh the constant and demobilizing action of sabotage. This year we suffered the most barbarous violations of our sovereignty and attacks on our territory and on our people. We saw that on every occasion the people reject defeat and discouragement. They know how to convert their grief into fresh efforts, thus serving the cause of the reconstruction of our country. Our strength and resolve doomed all enemy attempts. It is this strength and resolve that enabled us to construct the wall against which the enemy will ultimately crush himself.

We wish on this occasion to pay heartfelt homage to the heroic fighters of the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique--the security organ--to workers and to the people along the borders and to those who fell on the various fronts where our sovereignty and independence are being defended. These sacrifices will not be in vain, if we will continue to defend intransigently the cause for which they gave their lives.

MACHEL SENDS MESSAGE TO CASTRO ON NATIONAL DAY

LD011912Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 1 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] The Cuban people are commemorating the 19th anniversary of their revolution today. On this occasion President Samora Machel sent a congratulatory message to Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, and president of the State Council and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

President Samora Machel says in the message that on the occasion of anniversary of the Cuban national day, we in Mozambique commemorate with fraternal joy the victory of the Cuban revolution, which set up the first liberated zone in the Americas.

Further on in his message to the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, Samora Machel says that our two peoples are linked by the same objectives, which spring from their common struggle against imperialism. (?We are) united by a friendship and understanding which are being strengthened day by day by countless demonstrations of true internationalism which inspire the relations of the Cuban people with the Mozambican people.

Also, the Mozambican leader refers to the friendship and mutual understanding which have been cemented by the meetings held last year, by the exchange of delegations between FRELIMO and the Cuban Communist Party and between the two governments, and by the manifold contacts between the two peoples at all levels.

MAPUTO: GUERRILLAS DESTROY CONCENTRATION CAMP

LD021114Y Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Text] A military communique issued in Maputo by the Patriotic Front yesterday reveals that Zimbabwean guerrillas destroyed one of the Smith regime's concentration camps in the Chiredzi area on 11 December.

Besides the guerrilla forces, the Zimbabweans held in the camp also took part in the attack. In retaliation, Smith's troops burned down all the houses and barns belonging to the local people.

Some 80 Zimbabweans were freed from the camp.

Further Report

LD022200Y Maputo Voice of Zimbabwe in English to Rhodesia 1800 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD/EA

[Excerpt] From the war zones of Zimbabwe:

In a major offensive to free Zimbabweans from concentration camps, ZIPA combatants attacked and destroyed six so-called (?keeps) in the (Gezani) area, freeing thousands of civilians. [Words indistinct] escalation of the armed struggle in the (Gezani) area, thousands of civilians have been herded into concentration camps.

RHODESIA

SMITH REPORTS 'SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS' IN TALKS

LD312005Y Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Dec 77 LD/EA

[New year's message to the Rhodesian nation by Prime Minister Ian Smith on 31 December--live or recorded]

[Text] Good evening. Looking first of all at the economic front, during the first half of 1977 the level of economic activity in Rhodesia improved marginally in line with the slight increase in international trade. This improvement, however, was short-lived because the increase in international trade was not sustained and economic activity leveled off in the second half of the year.

Whilst there was a favorable balance on the merchandise trade account in 1977, the effect of higher invisible outflows resulted in a deficit balance on current account in the balance of payments. This deficit, coupled with intensified tax needs and the continuing demands of the war effort, made it necessary to reduce current currency allocations to commerce and industry in the second half of the year.

Despite the poor start to the 1976/77 agricultural season, crops intake was better than expected, reflecting the determination and skills for which Rhodesia's farmers are renown. However, weak external demand and transport congestion reduced export returns.

For the first time in many years, there has been virtually no growth in the value of mineral output because of weak international demand and falling commodity prices. Shortages of skilled labor, foreign currency restrictions and the far-reaching effect of the world recession, especially on the steel industry, have adversely affected the manufacturing sector, reducing output to below the 1976 level.

Turnover in the retail trade during 1977, when expressed in monetary terms, was maintained at 1976 level. This was a significant achievement, bearing in mind the net migration loss in 1977 and the effect of the wage restraint and demand.

A welcome feature of the tourist industry, which was adversely affected by the strong fall-off in the number of foreign tourists in 1977, has been the support given by Rhodesians to the new low-cost (?coach) and holiday schemes. The super-six package holidays, operated by Air Rhodesia, have also given a much needed boost to this important industry.

Building activity, originating from the private sector, remained at very low levels during the year.

Expenditure on buildings by the public sector, however, increased and went some way towards alleviating the problems facing the industry.

To reduce the rate of inflation, which had begun to show a rapid increase, the government introduced (?rent) and wage restraint regulations in March. By the end of the year, it was apparent that these measures, in conjunction with price control, were having the intended effect. Thus the all-items consumer price index, exclusive of sales tax and excise duty, which had been rising at a projected annual rate of over 13 percent during the first 3 months of 1977, slowed significantly to give over 6 percent for the year as a whole--clearly a notable achievement.

Whilst we experienced an increase in the net migration loss of whites, it is heartening that nearly one-third of all immigrants or former residents are returning to Rhodesia. This bears out what I have been saying for a long time. The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence, and although we have our problems, there are other countries with even bigger problems.

Indications for 1978 point to another year of stresses and strains for the economy. Until there is a sustained recovery in world trade, commodity prices will remain depressed and the adverse effects of this will be felt in all sectors.

Although planting rains fell a little later than normal, most crops are now well established and look quite promising. Government support announced for agriculture in the form of guaranteed prices should insure a satisfactory return on outlay, thus enabling farmers to stay on the land.

With output in the mining industry governed by external demand to a great extent, little, if any, growth in this sector is expected until international demand again rises.

Any forecast of future economic prospects must, of necessity, be subjective. It is clear, however, that, sanctions aside, the main factor responsible for the current low level of activity is the failure of the international economy to show any signs of recovery from the recession. Latest indications were that this recovery would not commence before 1979 or 1980, and that in consequence demand will continue to be weak throughout 1978.

In the meantime, it will be necessary for Rhodesia to live within its means so that we can make the most of the recovery when it comes.

Turning now to the settlement. This time last year, the optimism which had been raised by Dr Kissinger for a responsible settlement leading to peace had received a serious setback at Geneva. It never recovered.

Once again, our hopes were raised with the arrival of Dr Owen in April this year. But once again this all came to naught, for the simple reason that the British Government continued to pander to the demands of the Patriotic Front.

As they had done so often in the past, the British were trying to settle the Rhodesian problem in a manner that would best suit their own interests, rather than the interests of Rhodesia. In fact, they overplayed their hand to such an extent that their dubious motives became patently transparent, and Rhodesians, black and white, concluded that after all the experiences that they had been through (?they had best left us) to bring Rhodesians together around the settlement table, to the exclusion of outside interference.

The realization drawn was that Rhodesians were just as capable of settling problems as were other people and, when it came to Rhodesian problems, they were more capable.

I am pleased to tell you that the present talks are proceeding well. While we have not reached our final objective, I believe that all the delegations would agree with me when I say that we have made significant progress.

I have been impressed by the workmanlike way in which delegates have set about the task, and the urgency which everyone is bringing to bear on the problem. Most important of all, we are succeeding in improving trust between black and white Rhodesians, and while this continues nothing can prevent us from reaching our goal of settlement.

It will take time to overcome the problems which still lie ahead, and therefore I must ask you for continued patience. But, when you appreciate the incalculable benefits which will flow from a just and correct settlement, I believe that you will not be found wanting in your determination to keep on until we finally succeed.

As is to be expected, during such negotiations there is a great deal of speculation, some of it correct and some not; and your problem is that you are unable to differentiate between the two. Let me assure you that as soon as anything is decided we will give you the facts.

The basic position remains the same as it was when we commenced this exercise. In exchange for acceptance of the principle of majority rule, we are negotiating the inclusion in the constitution of those safeguards we [word indistinct] to defend the confidence of our white people so that they will be encouraged to go on living and working in Rhodesia and will continue to make their contribution to the economic progress of the country.

There has been much speculation and talk of a blocking mechanism in parliament. In some ways this is an unfortunate terminology, for it conjures up in the minds of some--and I am informed particularly of our black people--that we are seeking a means that will enable us to block the wishes and actions of a future government. I want to assure you that there is no substance in such statements. That we are seeking to safeguard these safeguards will insure that a future government will not be able to abuse its power by resorting to actions which are dishonest or immoral. These are things that are every bit as much in the interests of black people as white.

For example, a [word indistinct] bill of rights to protect the rights of freedom of individuals, and independent courts free from outside interference and influence, are just as important and desirable to blacks as they are to whites.

These provisions will protect all people, irrespective of race, color or creed. Moreover, in many facets of our life--both in the public and private sectors--there are standards and ethics, professional and others, which it is important to maintain and guarantee, just as essential for blacks as for whites.

In too many countries in Africa we see cases of people dying of starvation, preventable diseases, government-organized murder squads. These are things that acknowledge no barriers of race or color. I am sure that it is unnecessary for me to remind you of the agony and desperation of living under the threat of intimidation and violence, those tools of the (?terrorists).

The need to maintain the standards and impartiality of our forces of law and order cannot be overemphasized. It is to protect all of these vital essentials that we are insisting on certain constitutional safeguards--perhaps it is worth repeating and emphasizing protections and safeguards which are as important for black Rhodesians as for white Rhodesians.

Finally, I would like to compliment all Rhodesians on the manner in which they have coped with the problems which confront them almost on a day-to-day basis. And a special word for those who live in security-sensitive areas, where the presence of danger always prevails. Those wonderful people are a constant source of inspiration to us all. I am sure that once again this year you will all join with me in offering grateful thanks to our magnificent security forces for enabling us to go on living, not only in safety but in hope for the future.

Let us hope that with 1978 a new era is about to begin. With goodwill, understanding and courage we shall grasp the opportunity open to us to end our dispute to the benefit to all our people.

On behalf of my government and myself, I wish you all health, happiness and, above all, a settlement and peace in the year before us. Goodnight to you all.

COMMUNIQUE REPORTS LATEST DEATHS IN FIGHTING

PA311635Y Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 31 Dec 77 PA

[Text] Salisbury, Dec. 31 (AFP)--Thirty-six people including two Rhodesian Security Forces soldiers and 31 nationalist insurgents were killed in guerrilla fighting in the past 24 hours, an official communique announced today.

The communique said the two government soldiers were killed in action against guerrillas, while security forces killed 31 guerrillas and two of their "collaborators." Guerrillas killed a 36-year-old black civilian in the eastern operational area, the communique said.

AFP: GUERRILLAS ATTACK RHODESIAN TOURIST RESORT

TA030917Y Paris AFP in English 0908 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpt] Salisbury, Jan 3 (AFP)--Guerrillas today attacked one of Rhodesia's most popular tourist resorts at Leopard Rock, in the Vumba Mountains near the Mozambique border, it was reported here.

Extent of the damage to the Leopard Rock Hotel--a French chateau-style building owned by one of Rhodesia's original pioneer families--has not yet been ascertained. It was not known how many people were in the hotel, but it has been full over the Christmas holidays.

According to reports here, Rhodesian Security Forces are combing the area which lies less than 10 kms (six miles) west of the Mozambique border.

Black Rhodesian guerrillas led by Robert Mugabe, co-leader with Joshua Nkomo of the "Patriotic Front" of Zimbabwe, are known to be based in Mozambique along the border.

Further Details on Attack

TA031149Y Paris AFP in English 1134 GMT 3 Jan 78 TA

[Excerpts] Salisbury, Jan 3 (AFP)--African nationalist guerrillas fired on the Leopard Rock Hotel on Rhodesia's eastern border 23 miles (40 kms) from Umtali early today, damaging the roof with a heavy weapon, a hotel spokesman said.

About seven rockets or mortar shells hit the building, a popular tourist resort, at 3:30 a.m. "The roof is badly damaged but no one was injured," the spokesman said. Only five rooms were occupied at the time, although the hotel was fully booked during the Christmas and new year periods.

The spokesman was unable to say how long the attack lasted or whether it was launched from inside Rhodesia or from across the border. "If you have ever been under fire you will know that it is not easy to estimate these things," he said.

Several missiles missed the hotel and thudded into the surrounding rocks, the spokesman said. "There was also a lot of small arms fire which hit the building," he said.

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG COMMENTS ON FORTHCOMING NAMIBIA TALKS

LD021844Y Johannesburg International Service in English 1600 GMT 2 Jan 78 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] At the beginning of the new year, South-West Africa remains in the spotlight. South Africa has accepted an invitation to hold talks with the representatives of the five Western states in the Security Council in mid-January in New York. It will be the fifth round of talks between the five and South Africa in the past 9 months.

A statement by the South African foreign minister, Mr R.F. Botha, that South Africa has reached the end of the road in the process of negotiations on the independence of South-West Africa should be emphasized. The aim is for the territory to become independent towards the end of the year, and South Africa is not prepared to deviate from this goal, and negotiations to suit just one party, SWAPO, cannot go on forever.

Let us first look at what has been achieved so far and let us turn to a former SWAPO leader, Prof Mburumba Kerina, to find out what has been achieved.

In an article published towards the end of December Professor Kerina writes as follows: The appointment by the South African Government of an administrator-general and the far-reaching changes already introduced by that office have already set up new political and economic patterns. These are of importance not only to South-West Africa, Namibia, but equally to the African states generally and the international community. The changes make possible an orderly and peaceful constitutional settlement.

Professor Kerina goes on to list what has been agreed on by all parties. These are the holding of a general election, establishing a constituent assembly charged with the formulation of the independence constitution, self-determination for the territory as a unitary state and in accordance with the United Nations Charter. Target date for independence is 31 December this year.

Professor Kerina then goes on to state that the South African Government has already acquiesced in the best interests of South-West Africa to the five Western powers' requests to the appointment of an administrator-general, the presence of a representative of the United Nations secretary-general in South-West Africa to monitor the transitional process to independence, and the gradual phasing out of South African military presence in South-West Africa.

As Mr Botha has pointed out, South Africa has fulfilled all the requirements of the United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the territory, so what are the stalling tactics about? Or is it true that SWAPO, which is Soviet-backed, is not interested in a peaceful transition to independence but to taking power by violence and thereupon to converting South-West Africa into a Marxist state? The West should not shirk its duty in this regard.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF ARMED STRUGGLE

LD031158Y Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 31 Dec 77 LL/CA

[Text] President Kaunda said today that 1978 could prove to be the darkest hour of the liberation struggle before the dawn of independence in Zimbabwe and Namibia and warned of increased acts of aggression against frontline states by racist regimes in southern Africa.

In a special new year statement released in Lusaka, Dr Kaunda called upon each and every Zambian to be ready to face the threats to their national independence and security during the coming year. The president said Zambia must continue to strengthen her defense in border areas and heighten their [as heard] vigilance against the enemy in the coming year. He added that intensified armed struggle remained the most important instrument for liberating Zimbabwe and Namibia and for ending the deplorable policies of apartheid in racist South Africa. This, Dr Kaunda said, was a reality the people of southern Africa must face with courage and determination.

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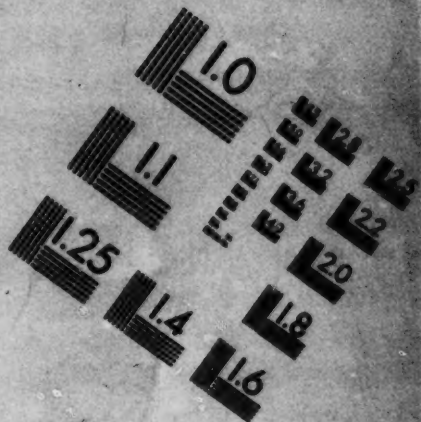
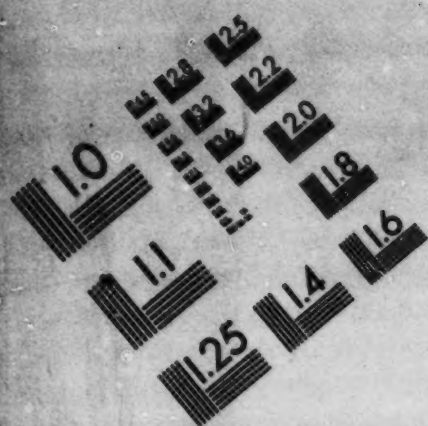
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